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# Seventeenth Biennial Report

OF THE

Board of Trustees

OF THE

# Historical Society

## *of Montana*

1923
1924

# *OFFICERS*

OF THE

# Historical Society of Montana

1923 -- 1924

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| J. H. T. Ryman, | - - - | President |
| Mrs. Josephine Hepner, | - - | Vice-President |
| David Hilger, | - - - | Librarian |

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David Hilger, Helena, Montana

Helena, Montana,
December 1, 1924.

Hon. Joseph M. Dixon,
Governor of Montana,
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to herewith submit the seventeenth biennial report of the State Historical Library, and present the report of the Librarian of even date herewith, covering the two year period from December 4, 1922, the date of our last report.

This department has been restricted by the reduced appropriation made by the Eighteenth Legislative Assembly, to the actual salaries paid the Librarian and one assistant and leaving the sum of $900 to cover all other expenses per annum including telephone, express, postage, stationery, supplies, etc., hence we have proceeded accordingly, but were unable to have the accumulating newspapers bound—and in other matters cut our purchases of new books to the ezro point. Your especial attention is directed to the very complete report of our Librarian and tthe fact that there are no funds provided for the publication of Vol. 10, the manuscript of which is ready for the press.

The Montana Historical Library is acquiring an enviable reputation among the Libraries of other states and especially the Northwest for the valuable data and early newspaper files that have been carefully preserved for the use of future historians.

During the past year many historians of note have come long distances to have access to our Library and the result will be the early publication of several noteworthy histories of early Montana characters never before in print. Increased activities are manifest from many quarters and we commend your careful reading of the Librarian's report.

We have the honor to be,

Your obedient servants,

J. H. T. RYMAN, President
WYLLIS A. HEDGES
JAMES T. STANFORD
MRS. JOSEPHINE HEPNER
DAVID HILGER.

# Report of the Librarian
## *of the*
# Historical Society of Montana

Helena, Montana, Dec. 1, 1924.

To the Honorable J. H. T. Ryman and the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Montana.

Gentlemen:

I herewith present the seventeenth biennial report of the Librarian of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1923-1924.

Your Librarian took office on September 1st, 1923 succeeding the late James U. Sanders who died April 17, 1923.

In order to present this report in a comprehensive manner, I will treat the various subjects under separate title headings, and I ask your careful consideration of the report, especially as it relates to finances, having due regard for efficiency and an economical administration.

I am pleased to report that increased interest is manifest from many quarters and particularly from the Historical Departments of the Northwestern States and the great value of the collections of the Montana Historical Society, which is coexistent with the meeting of the First Territorial Legislature of 1864, is recognized.

### ANNUAL VOLUME

Chapter 117 of the Political Code, section 1560, provides among the duties of the Librarian, (art. 4), "He shall each year publish a volume of transactions and contributions, under the supervision of the trustees, who shall also direct the distribution of the same to promote exchanges and secure additions to the library."

During 1923, Vol. 9, of the Historical Society Contributions was duly published at a cost of $700.00 for 500 volumes, which absorbed our appropriation for the year ending June 30, 1923.

While this would appear to be mandatory, the fact remains that but nine volumes have been published, and there was no appropriation made by the Eighteenth Legislative Assembly for such purposes—I call the attention to the budget submitted to cover this item, as the manuscript is now prepared for the publication of Vol. 10, and it should be further borne in mind that most of these volumes are placed on the exchange list with other State Historical Libraries and forms an agreeable method of new caquisitions as well as making our publications accessible to the historical student of other states.

### LIBRARY QUARTERS

The Library quarters, in the east end of the ground floor of the Capitol Building, is for the time being comfortably located, but crowded. The basement allotted to the Library is inaccessible to the public and over-crowded. We have reached the limit and are doing the best we can to properly install and care for the constantly accumulating documents and historical collections which have, and are being donated by the Government and Historical Libraries and interested citizens of the State and must be preserved.

The Eighteenth Legislative Assembly passed an act "Creating the Montana Pioneer Historical Fund, the Montana Pioneer Historical Society Commission and Defining and Describing its Powers and Duties." (Chapter 57.) This bill was introduced by Senator Paull of Deer Lodge County, and was a very timely and commendable bill providing as it did for voluntary contributions on the part of financially able and interested pioneers to provide funds to the amount of $250,000 for the construction and equipment of a separate. and suitable Library Building to house the priceless collections for the Historical Society which was originally created by the Bannack Legislature of 1864-5 as a private corporation, until taken over by the State in 1893.

This Act skillfully drawn by Senator Paull is a very wise provision and undoubtedly will provide the means for the construction of a Historical Society Building and remain a perpetual monument to the generous donors in preserving for all time to come the priceless collections of the best efforts of a generous body of men and women who have made Montana famous as Pioneers of the State.

I have decided however to await a more propitious time for the raising of this money but it is evident that this commendable undertaking must be soon started in order to house the present over-crowded conditions of the Library quarters.

## NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Especial attention is directed to the newspaper files in the Historical Department.

At the present time we are receiving 211 weekly and monthly publications of State papers, and 16 dailies, all or very nearly all now published in the State. These are carefully indexed on the card system and properly filed, but owing to the fact that no appropriations were made for binding they have been tied in bundles and properly labeled for future binding.

We have one of the most valuable collections of newspaper files of any of the states of the Northwest. I want to call especial attention to the energy and painstaking care of our Territorial Trustees and Librarians and such men as W. F. Wheeler, Cornelius Hedges, W. A. Clark, W. F. Sanders, W. Y. Pemberton, Granville Stuart and others, after the disastrous fire of 1874 which destroyed the accumulations of newspaper files, manuscripts and data acquired at that time. Due to the successful efforts of these Pioneers in regathering and preserving the valuable data, we have now very nearly restored the files of the newspapers of Territorial days. Among them are the Montana Post, Rocky Mountain Gazette, Helena Herald, Deer Lodge and Fort Benton papers, and this means much to the future Historians of Montana.

I want to commend the liberality of the Montana newspaper fraternity, for all of these papers are on the complimentary list, no appropriation having been made to cover the expense of subscription.

## MARKING HISTORICAL PLACES

Much commendable work has been performed by the Montana Pioneer's Society, who are rapidly falling in the ranks of this membership who arrived in Montana prior to Nov. 1, 1868, notably in marking the Mullan wagon road from Fort Benton to Lake Coeur d'Alene constructed in 1858-9 by the Government under the direction of Captain Mullan. Also the spot where gold was first discovered in Montana and the meeting of Captains Lewis and Clark with the Indians near

Armstead, Montana. The Daughters of the American Revolution have done much to commemorate historical spots, but it is now up to the State to continue the good work through the Historical Society. The graves of Malcolm Clark, a famous Fur Trader and Pioneer, and George Detwiler, Speaker of the first Legislative Assembly in 1864-5, are unmarked, neither far from the State Capital. The graves of other notable men of that time are also without suitable marking monuments and unless this is done within the memory of the living the record will be lost. Here I urge upon the Legislative Body to investigate and make a start in this direction.

## INVENTORY

The Trustees are interested in knowing at least approximately the value and number of volumes contained in the Library and for your information we submit the following (estimated value):

| | |
|---|---|
| Books, 30,000 vol. @ $2.00 each | $ 60,000 |
| Oil Portraits, 80 @ $200.00 each | 16,000 |
| Steel filing cases, furniture and fixtures | 10,000 |
| 3200 bound newspapers per vol. $6.25 | 20,000 |
| 400 unbound newspapers | 2,000 |
| 13 Museum cases and contents | 5,000 |
| Manuscripts, photographs, etc. | 5,000 |
| Total | $118,000 |

The actual value of the effects of the Montana Historical Society is nearer $200,000, upon which we carry fire insurance for only $10,000, due to the fact that our appropriation is entirely inadequate for the proper protection of the Historical Society Records.

*Inventory of Montana Historical Contributions*
*Volumes taken October* V, VTBD

| | |
|---|---|
| Vol. 1 | 6 |
| Vol. 2 | 41 |
| Vol. 3 | 2 |
| Vol. 4 | 164 |
| Vol. 5 | 175 |
| Vol. 6 | 276 |
| Vol. 7 | 88 |
| Vol. 8 | 9 |
| Vol. 9 | 261 |
| Total | 1022 |

It will be observed that Vols. 1-2-3 and 8 are about out and while many calls have been made during the past year for these volumes, we have refused to do so, and at no distant date provisions must be made for the republication of the exhausted volumes.

## FINANCES

A brief review of the operations of the Montana Historical Society with reference to the Legislative appropriations will enable the Trustees to form a more correct estimate of the scope of activities during a period of thirty years, or since March 2, 1893, when the "*Act placing the books and other property of the Historical Society to the State of Montana under the control of the State and providing for the appointment of Trustees to manage the same*" was approved by the Governor.

Again your attention is directed to the Act approved March 9, 1893, *Providing for the transfer of the Miscellaneous Division of the Montana State Library to the Library of the Historical Society of the State of Montana and to the care of its officers.*" I have thought it wise for the information of the Trustees to compile the appropriations made by each of the Legislative bodies from the Third to the Eighteenth sessions for each year for your guidance in recommending future needs of this department having due regard for the present financial conditions of the State and the tax paying public.

Appropriations for the State Historical Society:

1893. *Third Session*

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1893

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 750 | $1950 |

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1894

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 750 | $1950 |

1895. *Fourth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1895

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 750 | $1950 |

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1896

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 750 | $1950 |

1897. *Fifth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1897

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 750 | $1950 |

For the fiscal year ending Dec. 1, 1898

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 750 | $1950 |

1899. *Sixth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1899

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc. | 1050 | $2250 |

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1900

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses | 1050 | $2250 |

1901 *Seventh Session*

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1901

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses | 1500 | $2700 |

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1902

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1200 | |
| Expenses | 1250 | $2450 |

1903. *Eighth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1903

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1500 | |
| Salary, Assistant Librarian | 720 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc | 2500 | $4720 |

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1904

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1500 | |
| Salary, Assistant Librarian | 720 | |
| Expenses, binding, printing, etc | 2500 | $4720 |

1905 *Ninth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1905

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1500 | |
| Salary, Assistant Librarian | 800 | |
| Expenses | 2500 | $4800 |

For the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1906

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1500 | |
| Salary, Assistant Librarian | 800 | |
| Expenses | 2500 | $4800 |

1907. *Tenth Session*

For the three months ending Feb. 28, 1907

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $ 375 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 200 | |
| Expenses | 625 | $1200 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1908

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1800 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 900 | |
| Expenses and steel cases | 3000 | $6900 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1909

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1800 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 900 | |
| Expenses and steel cases | 3000 | $6900 |

1909. *Eleventh Session*

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1910

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1800 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 900 | |
| Expenses and fixtures | 2500 | $6400 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1911

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $1800 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 900 | |
| Expenses and steel cases | 3000 | $6900 |

1911 . *Twelfth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Feb 29, 1912

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses and steel cases | 3000 | $7500 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1913

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 3000 | $7500 |

1913. *Thirteenth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1914

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 2000 | |
| Furniture and cases | 2000 | $8500 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1915

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses, book cases, etc. | 3000 | $7500 |

1915. *Fourteenth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 29, 1916

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 2500 | $7000 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1917

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 2500 | $7000 |

1917. *Fifteenth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1918

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses and cases | 3000 | |
| Expenses, collecting stories | 1000 | $8500 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1919

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 3000 | |
| Expenses, collecting stories | 1000 | $8500 |

1919. *Sixteenth Session*

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 29, 1920

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 2000 | $6500 |

For the fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 1921

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100 | |
| Salary, First Assistant | 1200 | |
| Salary, Second Assistant | 1200 | |
| Expenses | 2000 | $6500 |

1921. *Seventeenth Session*

For four months ending June 30, 1921

Salary and expenses ..... $ 600

For year ending July 1, 1922

Salaries and expenses ..... $5037

For year ending June 30, 1923

Salaries and expenses ..... $6228

1923. *Eighteenth Session*

For year ending June 30, 1924

Salaries and expenses ..... $4800

For year ending June 30, 1925

Salaries and expenses ..... $4800

The appropriation of the 18th Legislative Session, as will be seen by reference, for the fiscal years from July 1st to June 30th, 1923 and 1924, was $4800 for each year.

This department has been operating for the past two years with the service of the Librarian at a salary as fixed by statute at $2100, per annum, and one assistant at $1800, per annum, although the law allows for two assistants at $1200 each per annum. Here we have dispensed with one assistant so that our appropriation $4800 is used as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Salary, Librarian | $2100.00 |
| Salary, Assistant | 18.00.00 |
| For all other expenses including binding, express, telephone, stationery, stamps, etc. | 900.00 |
| Total | $4800.00 |

It will be thus seen that from 1919 to 1923, the appropriations were greatly reduced, nor has there been any increase in salaries paid the Librarian or assistants since the 13th Session of 1913, in spite of the fact that in almost every instance the salaries of State officers were increased during the so-called war period. It will be noted that the appropriation for the Historical Society for many years ran from $6500 to $8500 per annum, hence for the economical and proper conduct of this Department, I recommend the following budget, per annum:

| | |
|---|---|
| Librarian | $2500.00 |
| Asst. Librarian | 1800.00 |
| Stenographic Asst. | 600.00 |
| Binding Newspapers | 1000.00 |
| Printing Annual Volume | 700.00 |
| Traveling expenses, express, telephone, stamps, etc. | 300.00 |
| Total | $7000.00 |

*Books Accessioned During* 1923-'24

| | |
|---|---|
| Periodicals and Bound Newspapers | 662 |
| Encyclopedias, etc. | 45 |
| Philosophy | 3 |
| Religion | 7 |
| Sociology, etc. | 25 |
| Useful arts | 2 |
| Fine arts | 2 |
| Fiction | 3 |
| Poetry, etc. | 2 |
| Biography and directories | 79 |
| History and travel | 128 |
| State Documents (Other than Historical Societies) | 160 |
| Government publications | 231 |
| Total | 1348 |

*Gifts Received During* 1923-'24

Episcopal seal ring of Bishop Tuttle.

Many photographs of Montana Pioneers.

Oil portrait of Bishop Carroll also a new one of Bishop Brondel.

Valuable books and early pamphlets on Montana from the library of the Sanders family.

Framed pictures including one of Governor Dixon which almost completes the collection of portraits of Montana Governors.

Gavel used by Lieut.-Gov. Allen in the Legislative Session of 1911-'12, and gavel used by Senator T. J. Walsh, New York, June, 1924.

Adobe brick from Fort Benton.

A piece of the Washington Elm, so called because at Cambridge, Mass., Washington stood under this elm when he took command of the American army in 1775.

Other relics pertaining to Montana history too numerous to mention in this report.

## LIBRARIANS

It should be made a matter of record as to the personnel of the Librarians who have, since the State assumed charge of the Library, managed its operations, most of whom have crossed the Great Divide and were all well known pioneers.

*Librarians of the State Historical Society*

Wm. F. Wheeler—1889.
Died June 24, 1894.

Harry S. Wheeler, Acting Librarian—June 1894
Died Oct. 29, 1895.

Wilbur E. Sanders—Nov. 6, 1895—Dec. 1898.

Mrs. Laura E. Howey—Dec. 1, 1898—June 1, 1907.
Died Sept. 21, 1911.

William S. Bell—June 1, 1907—June 1909.
Died June 15, 1920.

W. Y. Pemberton—June 1, 1909—Nov. 5, 1920.
Died Aug. 25, 1922.

Florence Fortune—Nov. 27, 1920—May, 1922.

James U. Sanders—May, 1922.
Died April 17, 1923.

Elizabeth McDonald, Acting Librarian—April, 1923—Sept. 1923.

David Hilger—Sept., 1923.

## CONCLUSION

I want to express my thanks for the very valuable assistance and advise and suggestions offered by yourself and the rest of the Trustees at our quarterly meetings; and to Miss Eliazbeth McDonald, who as Assistant and Acting Librarian was of great value and who resigned on Sept. 1, 1924 to assume her position with the Butte City Library, temporarily vacated, and to my present assistant, Mrs. Anne McDonnell, for their uniform and consistent support in the operation of the Montana State Historical Library.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID HILGER, Librarian.